

The background of the entire slide is a dense field of water droplets of various sizes, rendered in shades of blue and white, creating a textured, wet appearance. A solid blue vertical bar runs along the left edge of the slide.

WATER MATTERS





Water Matters

When we conserve water, we preserve life. Water is a precious commodity in our desert community. Due to careful planning and resource management, we are fortunate to have many water resources available to us. The following gives a brief explanation of available water resources and their management. For additional information please call your Water Conservation Office at (623) 930-3596.

WHERE OUR WATER COMES FROM

1. **SRP** – snow and rain run-off from the Salt and Verde River watersheds (in-state)
2. **CAP** – run-off from the Colorado River watershed (multi-state)
3. **Groundwater** – underground water pumped from wells
4. **Reclaimed water** – treated, recycled wastewater for non-potable use (in the landscape, golf courses, industry, etc.)

THE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1980

The Phoenix area receives very little rainfall (approx. 7.5 inches per year). Groundwater cannot be naturally replenished to meet the population demands. Before 1980, groundwater was being pumped out faster than it could be replenished (called overdraft). A decline in regional groundwater from overdrafting can also create water quality degradation, increased electric costs to pump water, a need to deepen water supply wells, and the long-term geologic phenomena of land subsidence.

To address overdrafting of Arizona waters the State Legislature passed the Groundwater Management Act in 1980. The Groundwater Management Act specifies areas depleting groundwater into Active Management Areas (AMAs). Cities in the Phoenix AMA (which includes all Valley cities) must switch water supplies from less non-renewable to more renewable sources (i.e. less groundwater to more surface water). The idea is to save groundwater supplies yet provide a long-term supply of high quality water without depleting our groundwater. The goal of the Phoenix AMA is to reach Safe Yield by 2025. Safe yield is defined as achieving and maintaining a long-term balance between the amount of groundwater withdrawn in an AMA and the amount of natural and artificial recharge.

Accomplishments since 1980

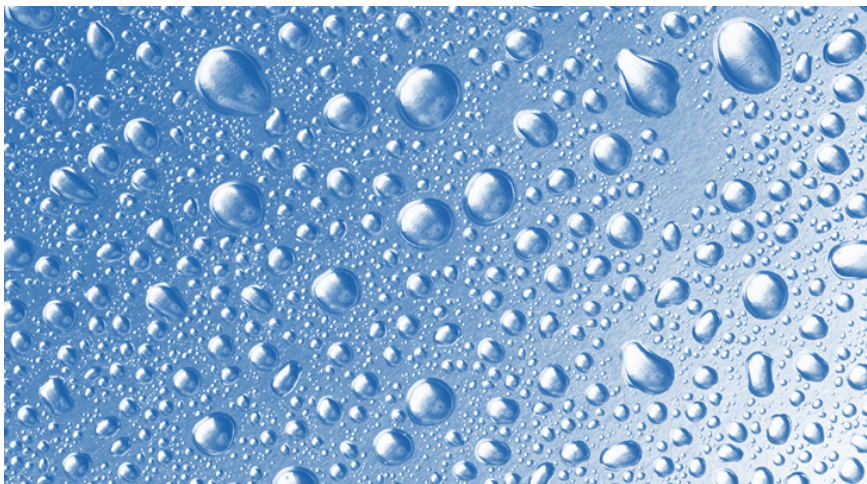
1. Conversion from groundwater to renewable supplies. Glendale has decreased its reliance on groundwater from 100 percent to 15 percent.
2. Treatment of waste water provided increased availability of effluent for nonpotable uses (landscape, golf courses, industry, etc.). Treated waste water accounts for six percent of total water use in Glendale.
3. Involved in cooperative regional planning efforts to ensure future water supplies. Glendale participates in the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association working with other cities on regional water conservation and water resource concerns.

Our Next Generation Deserves the Water We Conserve

The Valley has doubled in population in the last 20 years. Municipal water demand accounts for more than 40 percent of usage and continues to grow. The water you conserve contributes resources to the next generation and reduces the need for and the costs of water treatment. Besides ensuring water supplies for future generations, water conservation saves you money and makes cents.

We All Lose the Race When Its Water We Waste

A majority (more than 60%) of municipal water use is used outdoors in the landscape by homeowners. For the most part this water use is unregulated. Studies have found that homeowners use two to five times more water than is needed in the landscape. It is up to each of us to do our best to learn good watering practices to help eliminate water waste. By adopting sensible and responsible water habits, we can work together to ensure our future water supply.



Water Matters– Learn to Conserve

Tips to help eliminate water waste in the landscape.

1. Monitor monthly: Monitor your water usage monthly. Did you know that on average a home uses 60 percent or more of its water in the landscape? In the summer outdoor water usage can be as high as 60 to 80 percent? It only makes sense to monitor your outdoor water system to make sure your water is not being wasted. A good time to do this is when you get your water bill. Let it be your reminder to monitor monthly. Here are some tips of what to look for:

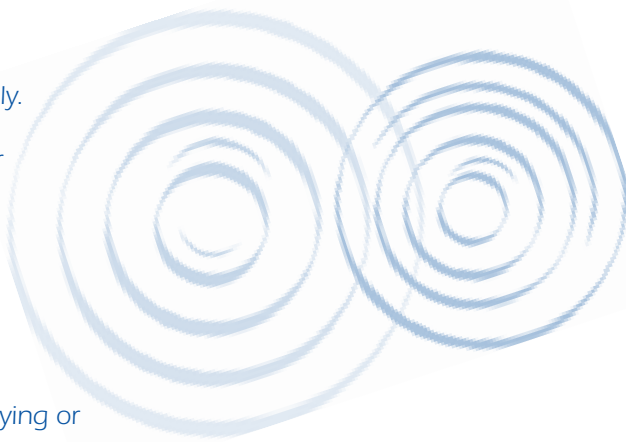
- **Broken grass heads & risers** – Look for water spraying or bubbling from the top or bottom of the grass head.
- **Over spray water** – Adjust grass heads not to spray on sidewalks, driveways, walls, or buildings.
- **Water in the valve box** – This is an indication of a leaky valve needing repaired.
- **Grass over grown around grass head** – Grass is too tall for the pop-up grass head to spray above the height of the grass.
- **Other obstacles blocking grass heads.**
- **A small hole or depression in the ground** – This indicates an area where water is leaking.
- **Adjust watering in areas that are shaded** – These areas do not need as much water as sunny areas.

- **Know where your anti-siphon assembly (also called vacuum breaker) is located.** It not only protects your water supply from contamination – it is where you can shut off your irrigation system in emergency situations (if a station will not shut off).
- **Most importantly, check and adjust your timer/controller each month.** Remember to water long enough to get a deep penetration in the soil – then you will not have to water so often. Frequent applications of short duration will result in excess evaporation loss and poor rooting of plants. For more information on how to check and adjust your landscape water see our web site at www.glendaleaz.com/WaterConservation/ or call 623 930-3596 and ask for the “Landscape Watering by the Numbers” brochure.

2. Water - Too precious to waste. Signs of over watering – Did you know that most people over water their landscape two to five times more than what is needed? Even if you have installed low water use plants, they will not be low-water use if you do not continually monitor the amount of water they receive. Here are a few signs of over watering:

- Areas of standing water for more than two hours.
- The soil is constantly damp.
- Water running down the street – It is against city ordinance to allow water to run down the street.
- “Mushrooms” in turf areas or under trees and shrubs.
- Molds/algae on soil surface.
- Leaves turn lighter green or yellow (black tips on agaves and yuccas). Young or new shoots are wilted and drooping.
- Excessive growth.

The most common waste of water is not setting timers correctly (a deep watering should be applied instead of several short and shallow applications). See our Web site at <http://www.glendaleaz.com/WaterConservation/> or call 623 930-3596 and ask for the “Landscape Watering by the Numbers” brochure.





**Water –
Learn to conserve.
City of Glendale programs available.**

You can learn more about how you can do your part to help conserve water. The following is a list of programs available through your City of Glendale Water Conservation Office:

- 1. Home audit kits & on-site water audit program** – Order your free home water audit kit or call the office to schedule an on-site audit. On-site audits are available for homeowners and Home Owner Associations.
- 2. School programs** – Call the office to find out how your school can receive free assemblies on water conservation.
- 3. Water waste investigations** – We respond to reports of water running in the streets or alleys. Call-in or complete the on-line form to report water in the streets.
- 4. Rebates** – We provide a \$100 rebate for newly installed low-water use landscapes and \$35 for newly installed automatic timers.
- 5. On-site landscape consultations** – We provide landscape consultations with suggestions for plant selection, water scheduling, and techniques for saving water.

- 6. Homeowner classes & workshop** – Classes with a wide variety of speakers and tips on how to garden in the desert and how to become water wise.
- 7. Project WET training** – Project WET is a water education program for educators and young people and is endorsed by the Council for Environmental Education.
- 8. Library Demonstration Xeriscape Garden** – Visit our award-winning demonstration garden of low-water use plants located at the Glendale Main Library on 59th Avenue and Brown. Want to get your hands dirty? Ask about our “Friends of the Garden” volunteer group.
- 9. Speaker’s bureau** – Our speaker’s bureau provides a variety of presentations on desert landscaping and water management.
- 10. Free colorful informational brochures** – Available for pick-up at the Glendale libraries. They can also be ordered on-line or by calling the Water Conservation Office.



Additional information on each of these programs is available on our Web site at www.glendaleaz.com/WaterConservation or by calling our office at (623) 930-3596. For general tips on conserving water visit the Water, Use It Wisely Web site at www.wateruseitwisely.com.





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